

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of making an implantable bearing for an orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising the steps of:

- 5 providing a first layer constructed of a polymer;
 providing a second layer constructed of a copolymer comprising ethylene
 and an acrylate;
 securing said first layer to said second layer so as to create a composite;
 and
10 forming said composite into a predetermined shape of said implantable
 bearing.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of exposing said first layer to a dose of radiation so as to crosslink said polymer.

- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said second layer providing step
 comprises providing a copolymer comprising ethylene and methyl methacrylate.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said second layer providing step
 comprises providing a copolymer comprising ethylene and methyl acrylate.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said second layer providing step comprises providing a copolymer comprising ethylene and ethyl acrylate.

25 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said second layer providing step
 comprises providing a copolymer comprising ethylene and butyl methacrylate.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said second layer providing step comprises providing a copolymer comprising ethylene and ethyl methacrylate.

- 30 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said securing step and said forming
 step are performed contemporaneously.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein said securing step comprises the step of compression molding said first layer and said second layer to one another.

5 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said forming step comprises forming said composite into an acetabular bearing which is adapted to be implanted into an acetabulum of a patient.

10 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said forming step comprises forming said composite into a glenoid bearing which is adapted to be implanted into a glenoid of a patient.

15 12. The method of claim 1, wherein said forming step comprises forming said composite into a tibial bearing which is adapted to be implanted into a tibia of a patient.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said forming step comprises forming an articulating surface in said first layer.

20 14. An orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising:
an implantable bearing which is prepared by a process comprising the steps of (i) securing a first layer constructed of a polymer to a second layer constructed of a copolymer comprising ethylene and an acrylate so as to create a composite, and (ii) forming said composite into a predetermined shape.

25 15. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said process for preparing said implantable bearing further comprises the step of exposing said first layer to a dose of radiation so as to crosslink said polymer.

30 16. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said acrylate includes methyl methacrylate.

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17. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said acrylate includes methyl acrylate.

5 18. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said acrylate includes ethyl acrylate.

19. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said acrylate includes butyl methacrylate.

10 20. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said acrylate includes ethyl methacrylate.

15 21. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said securing step and said forming step are performed contemporaneously.

22. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said securing step comprises the step of compression molding said first layer and said second layer to one another.

20 23. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said implantable bearing is an acetabular bearing which is adapted to be secured to a acetabulum of a patient.

25 24. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said implantable bearing is a glenoid bearing which is adapted to be implanted into a glenoid of a patient.

25. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said implantable bearing is a tibial bearing which is adapted to be implanted into a tibia of a patient.

30 26. The orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 14, wherein said process for preparing said implantable bearing further comprises forming an articulating surface in said first layer.

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27. An implantable bearing for an orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising:
a layer of polymer; and
a layer of copolymer secured to said layer of polymer, said copolymer
comprising ethylene and an acrylate.

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28. The implantable bearing of claim 27, wherein said layer of polymer
and said layer of copolymer are compression molded to one another.

29. The implantable bearing of claim 27, wherein said acrylate includes
10 methyl methacrylate.

30. The implantable bearing of claim 27, wherein said acrylate includes
methyl acrylate.

31. The implantable bearing of claim 27, wherein said acrylate includes
15 ethyl acrylate.

32. The implantable bearing of claim 27, wherein said acrylate includes
butyl methacrylate.

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33. The implantable bearing of claim 27, wherein said acrylate includes
ethyl methacrylate.

34. The implantable bearing of claim 27, wherein:
25 said layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said layer of copolymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is
adapted to be implanted into an acetabulum of a patient.

35. The implantable bearing of claim 27, wherein:
30 said layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said layer of copolymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is
adapted to be implanted into a glenoid of a patient.

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36. The implantable bearing of claim 27, wherein:
said layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said layer of copolymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is
adapted to be implanted into a tibia of a patient.

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37. The implantable bearing of claim 27, wherein said layer of polymer
has an articulating surface defined therein.